

Tajuk :
10,927 UNIMAS undergraduates receive book vouchers



FATIMAH (second left) presents the mock book voucher to a student leader (right) as UNIMAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman (left) and Student Council Vice-President Hwong Yie Hahn (second right) look on.

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BY EMY LINDSAY

KUCHING: The one-off RM200 book voucher has arrived at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) for 10,927 current undergraduates.

As announced by the Prime Minister during Budget 2012, the government has allocated about RM260 million for this initiative which will benefit some 1.3 million students at the tertiary level nationwide, including those in Form Six and private institutions.

Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Hajah Fatimah Abdullah, who was the guest-of-honour for the book voucher handout ceremony held at UNIMAS Academic Information Centre yesterday, reminded the undergraduates to utilise the book voucher wisely and not to misuse it for other things.

"You all are the pillars of the nation who will be leaders in the future. Thus, I urge you all to take this opportunity to study diligently and communicate

more with your lecturers so that you will have a holistic view of what you study for and what you want to do after you graduate," she said.

She emphasised that the gift voucher was not only meant to ease the students burden in buying reference books which are quite costly at tertiary level, but also with the purpose of inculcating a good reading habit.

Fatimah also stressed on the role of higher learning institutes in the context of educating highly relevant graduates to meet the



UNIMAS Faculty of Cognitive Science and Human Resource Development student Mandy Luv displays the mock book voucher she received.

nation's development needs.

They must also be able to advance, create and disseminate knowledge through research and publication, to provide opportunities for lifelong learning and to protect and enhance positive societal values.

"There is an urgent need to possess a proactive attitude in order to remain relevant, not only to fulfill the demands of the complex academic world, but also to meet the manpower needs of our country in particular and the region in general," she said.

The Minister said the quality of our graduates - their knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and worldviews - are relevant in determining their marketability and employability in the global job market.

"Similarly, issues concerning the overall academic standards of our teaching and research staff, the courses we are offering and the roles of universities in the socio-cultural development of our multi-racial society are equally important in the national development agenda," she said.